

FACT SHEET



Bonne Terre Mine Tailings Site Bonne Terre, Missouri

July 1998

SITE UPDATE

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 is releasing the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Assessment (EE/CA) for the Bonne Terre Mine Tailings Site in Bonne Terre, Missouri. The EE/CA is a document which evaluates alternatives for clean-up of a contaminated site. Although the EE/CA also includes a recommendation for the site, the final decision will not be made until EPA reviews comments from the public. The EE/CA is available for public review and comment for 30 days, running from June 29, 1998, through July 28, 1998.

LONG-TERM ACTION

EPA identified potential long-term removal action alternatives for three separate areas of the site - the East Tailings Area, the Intermediate Tailings Area, and the Chat Pile and Tailings Field. The potential cleanup actions are as follows:

- The **no-action alternative** is used as a baseline condition for comparing the effectiveness of the various other alternatives. This alternative would not meet cleanup objectives and would not be protective of human health and the environment.
- The **administrative control alternative** includes some or all of the following: elimination of drag racing, posting no-trespassing signs, allowing only authorized personnel and vehicle access to the property by constructing gates on access roads, implementing deed restrictions, and monitoring air and surface water.
- The **on site regrading** alternative includes the administrative controls described above, in addition to slope stabilization, which would be accomplished by using vegetation or rock slope protection. This alternative also includes slope reduction.
- The **reggrading with offsite disposal** alternative is only evaluated for the Chat Piles and Tailings Field area. This alternative includes the increased reduction in the height of the chat pile and would result in excess excavated material which would need to be placed as fill elsewhere in the vicinity of the site.

BACKGROUND

The Bonne Terre Mine Tailings Site is located in an area known as the Old Lead Belt. Ownership of the site is mostly private, and portions are developed commercially under numerous owners. It is surrounded on the west and south by developed portions of the city of Bonne Terre, both residential and commercial.

The EPA has determined that a removal action is required for this area because the lead in the piles presents a threat of exposure to people in the area. There is a potential for the lead-contaminated particles to be transferred offsite by wind and storm water runoff. Also, lead-contaminated tailings at or near the surface may migrate to surface water.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The EE/CA and the information repository for the Bonne Terre Mine Tailings Site are available for review at the Mineral Area College - Center for Environmental Studies, Park Hills, Missouri, during normal business hours. The EE/CA is also available for review at the Bonne Terre City Hall, 1A Northwood Drive, Bonne Terre, Missouri.

A 30-day public comment period on the EE/CA began June 29, 1998, and ends July 28, 1998. EPA will be holding a public meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 7, 1998. The meeting will be held at the Heritage Hall, 118 East School Street, Bonne Terre, Missouri. Anyone wishing to comment on the EE/CA may do so by submitting written comments or by making verbal comments at the July 7 meeting. Written comments may be submitted at the July 7 public meeting or sent by mail, postmarked no later than July 28, 1998, to the address shown below:

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Office of External Programs
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Kansas City, Kansas 66101

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions about this fact sheet, or need additional information regarding this site please call Dana Blubaugh, Community Involvement Coordinator, at (913) 551-7003 or toll-free at 1-800-223-0425